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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/771,991

02/03/2004

Marc Duarte

1948-4837

6281

27123

7590

10/02/2006

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EXAMINER

CRANSON JR, JAMES W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/771,991	Applicant(s) DUARTE ET AL.	
	Examiner James W. Cranson	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 7/25/2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/12/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

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Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 24-31 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 9-16, 19, 20, 23, and 25-27 of copending Application No. 10,635,358 in view of US 5,975,715 to Bauder

Bauder teaches in a vehicular lamp assembly the use of a printed circuit board.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim 1 of 10,635,358 includes the limitations of claim 1 of instant application except that the printed circuit board (216 in figure 2) is not claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to add a printed circuit board to 10,635,358 as taught by Bauder. The reason is that it is well known in the illumination art to use printed circuit boards with high intensity lamps for compactness, ease of maintenance and the elimination of most wires.

Regarding claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 24-31 see chart below:

Application No. 10/771,991	Application No. 10/635,358
Claim No.	Claim No.
1 in view of USPN 5,975,715	1
4 + 8 + 14	12

4 + 8 + 14	27
10 + 24	9
17	5
17	20
18	11
20	13
20 + 29	14
24 + 25	15
24 + 25	16
27	2
28	3
28	25
29	4
30	10
31	23

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have recognized that a single electrical connection between the module and the apparatus compared to set of electrical connections is an obvious variation to simplify assembly step(s) and manufacturing step(s), which is desirable by one of ordinary skill in the art.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1 – 4, 7, 9, 17, 18, 20, 24, and 31 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno et al. (USPN 6,550,935) in view of Nakamura et al (6,066,921).

Regarding claim 1: Ueno et al. discloses lighting apparatus (luminaire) for a motor vehicle (column 1, lines 10-30), having in particular a light emitting element, which includes a reflector (3), a light source (1), and a housing (52a, 52b, 52e, 52f, 52h) which defines a set of faces (Figures 1, 4, 6-9, 15, 19, 20, 24), having side, lower and upper faces wherein lighting element has at least one connector base disposed in an aperture in the lighting element (figure 12

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unlabeled), the said connector base comprising a set of terminals (8b, 8b') which are adapted to come into contact with a set of electrical contact zones of a complementary module (a lighting device; 62a) each electrical contact zone being disposed in such a way that it is directly accessible, for the terminal with which it is to make contact (column 4, lines 25-45), on a surface portion of an electronic printed circuit board of the complementary module (column 9, lines 38-44, conducting pattern ... printed wiring substrate). Ueno does not have the complementary module outside of the housing. Nakamura et al in a discharge lamp lighting device teaches (figure 15,16) having the complementary module (2) outside the housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching Nakamura et al. in Ueno and have the complementary module placed outside the housing. The purpose of having the complementary module outside the housing is to reduce the heat inside the housing.

Regarding claim 2, according to claim 1: Ueno et al. discloses and illustrates that the electrical contact zones are distributed over at least two faces of the complementary module in figure 21, 8a' has room on both sides for contact zones.

Regarding claim 3, according to claim 1: Ueno et al. discloses and illustrates that the electrical contact zones are distributed on only one face of the complementary module in figure 10, 8b' has room on one side for contact zone.

Regarding claim 4, according to claim 1: Ueno et al. discloses and illustrates that the connector base includes an aperture, in which the electronic circuit board is rooted and in which the set of terminals is disposed in figure 21 (aperture is not labeled).

Regarding claim 7, according to claim 1: Ueno et al. discloses an elastic means 28 (figures 22,23) arranged between connector base and complementary module and lighting unit.

Regarding claim 9, according to claim 1: It is inherent that the set of contact zones and the set of terminals are associated in one to one relationship.

Regarding claim 17, according to claim 1, Ueno et al. discloses the complementary module is selected from the group consisting of a ballast of the HID type (column 7, line 4) and a module comprising at least one electronic circuit board (30; Figures 16-18) for performing at least one function associated with the headlight element.

Regarding claim 18, according to claim 1, Ueno et al. discloses the complementary module and the light emitting element are fixed together by fastening means once the slide has, or slides have, come into mating engagement with the projecting element or elements, the fastening means being selected from the group consisting of a single screw (Figure 14; 61a”), means for clipping the complementary module on the light emitting element.

Regarding claim 20, according to claim 1, Ueno et al. discloses the casing of the light-emitting element includes an opening formed in at least a portion of a rear side face (ex. Figure 1, 4, 6, 7 and 815; 4a, 6h, 6i) and in at least part of the lower face of the light emitting element, the light emitting element including at least one connector receiving element disposed in an aperture formed in the rear face of the light emitting element, at the level of the opening, at least one of the connector receiving element being adapted to receive a connector disposed on the complementary module of the light emitting element.

Regarding claims 21 and 22 both according to claim 20, Ueno et al. discloses sealing means of gasket type 7, 7a, 7b, and 7h.

Regarding claim 24, according to claim 1, Ueno et al. discloses a single power supply input for receiving a set of signals from outside the lighting or indicating apparatus, the signals being transmitted via a first conductive link to the receiving element of the connector, a second conductive link internal to the light emitting element, for securing the transmission of signals between the receiving element of the connector and a high tension module associated with the light source, the first conductive link being preferably an unscreened lead, and the second conductive link being preferably a screened lead.

Regarding claim 29, according to claim 20, Ueno et al discloses that each guiding slide is disposed on the lighting element, each projecting element of a pair of assembly elements being disposed on the complementary module, and the guiding slides being disposed on walls of the lighting element which define the aperture.

Regarding claim 31, Ueno et al. discloses a motor vehicle equipped with lighting or indicating apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

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2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Regarding claim 5:

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,550,935 to Ueno et al.

Claim 5, according to claim 4: Ueno et al. discloses and illustrates the claimed invention except for having a circuit board is reversible and removable in figure 21.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Ueno with a circuit board is reversible and removable because it has been held that lacking any critically, to make prior arts separable does not make the claimed invention patentable over that prior art (*Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177).

Regarding claim 6, according to claim 1, including at least one additional member, which is mounted removably on the casing and which carries the connector base and the complementary module.

Regarding claim 6:

Claim 6, according to claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,550,935 to Ueno et al. Ueno et al. discloses and illustrates the claimed invention except for having a removable additional member.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Ueno with a removable additional member because it has been held that lacking any

critically, to make prior arts separable does not make the claimed invention patentable over that prior art (Nerwin v. Erlichman, 168 USPQ 177).

Regarding claim 8:

Claim 8, according to claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,550,935 to Ueno et al. in view of USPN 4,293,179 to Vonder.

Regarding claim 8, wherein electrical contact zones are distributed over at least two faces of the complementary module, and are grouped in a first set of electrical contact zones, disposed on a first face of the electronic printed circuit board, and a second set of electrical contact zones disposed on a second face of the electronic circuit board, each contact zone of the first set of contact zones being connected electrically to a contact zone of the second set of contact zones.

Ueno discloses in column 9, lines 38-40 that couplers 8a' and 8b' are formed by a conducting pattern at end parts of a printed wiring substrate (printed circuit board). Ueno does not disclose the connection details (first and second sets of contact zones). Vonder in a circuit board interconnection system teaches in claim 2 of this 1981 patent that it is well known to have a first set of electrical contact zones, disposed on a first face of the electronic printed circuit board, and a second set of electrical contact zones disposed on a second face of the electronic circuit board, each contact zone of the first set of contact zones being connected electrically to a contact zone of the second set of contact zones. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the teaching of Vonder in Ueno and provide Ueno with a first set of electrical contact zones, disposed on a first face of the electronic printed circuit board, and a second set of electrical contact zones disposed on a second face of the electronic circuit board, each contact zone of the first set of contact zones being

connected electrically to a contact zone of the second set of contact zones. The purpose as taught by Vonder is to provide rapid connection and interchangeability.

Regarding claim 10:

Claim 10, according to claim 4, Ueno as modified for claim 8 above has means co-operating with each other for centering the set of contact zones with respect to the set of terminals when the electronic circuit board comes to be inserted in the connector base.

Regarding claim 11:

Claim 11, according to claim 1, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,550,935 to Ueno et al. in view of USPN 4,138,711 to Bremenour et al. Ueno does not disclose at least one intermediate member which is at least partly conductive. Bremenour in a static control device for printed circuit board teaches the use of at least one intermediate member which is at least partly conductive that incorporates connection between contact zone and terminal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide Ueno with an intermediate member as taught by Bremenour. The reason as taught by Bremenour is for protection of the printed circuit.

Regarding claim 12:

Claim 12, according to claim 11, wherein the said at least one intermediate member is fixed to the electronic circuit board, in particular by brazing or adhesive bonding, in such a way as to be in electrical continuity with the electrical contact zones of the said electronic circuit board is obvious as set forth above for modified claim 11 because the method forming a device, in the instant case is attaching by brazing or adhesive bonding, is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

Regarding claim 13:

Claim 13, according to claim 12, wherein the said at least one intermediate member is a projecting element disposed on at least one of the faces of the electronic circuit board, is rejected for same reasons as claim 12.

Regarding claim 15:

Claim 15, according to claim 11, wherein the intermediate member is in electrical continuity with, and in particular is fixed to, electrical contact zones of the electronic circuit board is obvious in view of modified claim 11 as noted above because without electrical continuity, the circuit would be open and electricity would not flow.

Regarding claim 16:

Claim 16, according to claim 15, wherein fastening of the metallic intermediate member and the electrical contact zones of the electronic circuit board to each other is obtained by a process selected from the group that consists of welding, brazing and adhesive bonding is obvious as set forth above for modified claim 11 because the method forming a device, in the instant case is attaching by brazing or adhesive bonding, is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

Regarding claim 19:

Claim 19, according to claim 4, wherein the complementary module and the lighting element are secured to each other by means of a spring for exerting pressure on a rear portion of the complementary module, whereby to maintain the electronic circuit board rooted in the aperture of the connector base.

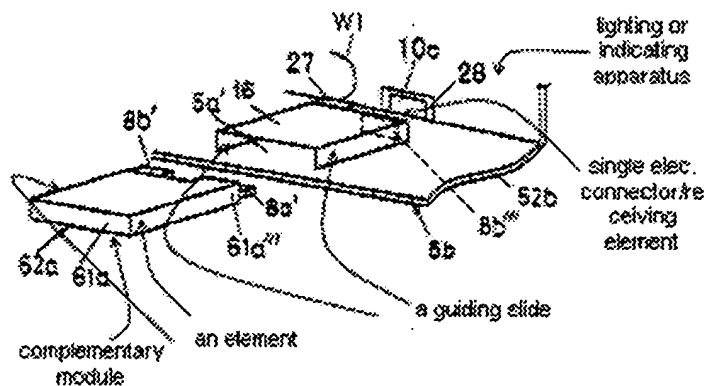
Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uneo et al. (USPN 6,550,935) in view of Martinez-Goottschalk et al. Uneo does not have that complementary module and the lighting element are secured to each other by means of a spring for exerting pressure on a rear portion of the complementary module, whereby to maintain the electronic circuit board rooted in the aperture of the connector base. Martinez-Goottschalk et al in a lighting apparatus for a vehicle teaches the use of a spring (26, figures 7a , 7b) for exerting pressure on a circuit board. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Martinez-Goottschalk et al and provide Uneo with a spring for exerting pressure on the circuit board. The purpose of using the spring is to reduce the amount of space needed and to eliminate a need for extra electrical conductors between lamp and module.

Claims 26, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno et al. (USPN 6,550,935) in view of Watanabe et al. (USPN 5,678,916).

Regarding claim 26, Ueno et al. discloses a reflector (e.g., 3), a light source (e.g., 1), and a casing (e.g., 52a, 52b, 52e, 52f, 52h) which defines a set of faces (e.g., Figures 1, 4, 6-9, 15, 19, 20, 24), having side, lower and upper faces, wherein, the apparatus is adapted to be combined with at least one complementary module (e.g., a lighting device; 62a) with the aid of at least one pair ("left and right portions of the body"; Figure 18; 62c or 10 and 27 in Figure 22) of assembly element comprising a guiding slide (Figures 10-14, 21-23) and an element (shown & indicated in below drawing figure) being adapted to be complementary to at least one end of the slide associated with the element and to slide in the slide, each of the assembly elements of the pair of assembly elements being disposed either on the lighting or indicating apparatus (5a) or on the

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complementary module ("a lighting device"; 62a), each assembly element in one the pair being disposed in a different one of the components consisting of the lighting or indicating apparatus ("luminaire") and the complementary module (a lighting device; 62a), the module having a single electrical connector (8b'; Figures 10, 13, 14, 16 and 17), and the apparatus (luminaire) having a single receiving element (8b; Figures 10, 13, 14, 16 and 17) for the connector of the complementary module (lighting device; 62a).

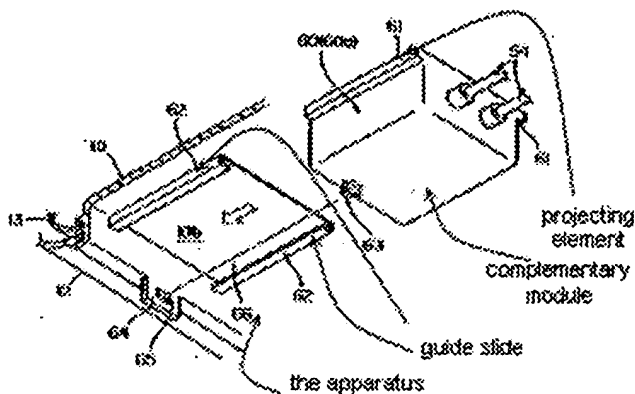


Ueno et al. failed to disclose the details of a **projecting** element, where the element being inserted into one end of the slide.

Watanabe et al. teaches specific details of the apparatus (e.g., 10) is adapted to be combined with at least one complementary module (e.g., 60(60a)) with the aid of at least one pair (e.g., Figure 7) of assembly element comprising a guiding slide (e.g., 62) and a projecting element (e.g., 61) being adapted to be inserted at least into one end of the slide associated with the projecting element and to slide in the slide, each of the assembly elements of the pair of assembly elements being disposed either on the lighting (10) or indicating apparatus (10) or on the complementary module (60(60a)), each assembly element in one the pair (Figure 7) being disposed in a different one of the components consisting of the lighting or indicating apparatus

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(10) and the complementary module (60(60a)), the module having an electrical connector (e.g., 54).



It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify guiding slide(s) & element(s) of Ueno et al. to include projecting element(s) that is being inserted into the guiding slide(s). The following modification would have result in more precise assembly between the lighting/indicating apparatus and the complementary module. In addition, the modification would have provided an easier method of replacing the complementary module (in this case, the complementary module being outside the lighting/indicating apparatus) during replacement or an initial installation.

Note: Claims in the pending application should be given their broadest reasonable interpretation. *In re Pearson*, 181 USPQ 641 (CCPA 1974).

It has been held that the recitation that an element is “adapted to” (underlined items) perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

Regarding claim 27, according to claim 26; Ueno as modified above for claim 26 has two pairs of assembly elements.

Regarding claim 28, according to claim 26; Ueno as modified above for claim 26 has that each guiding slide is disposed on the lighting element, each projecting element of a pair

of assembly elements is disposed on the complementary module.

Regarding claim 30, according to claim 26; Ueno as modified above for claim 26 has that the set of contact zones and the set of terminals that enter into contact with each other when at least one projecting element in an assembly pair is at the end of its course of travel within the guiding slide with which it is associated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ueno et al. (USPN 6,550,935).

Regarding claim 32:

Ueno et al. discloses lighting apparatus (luminaire) for a motor vehicle (column 1, lines 10-30), having in particular a light emitting element, which includes a reflector (3), a light source (1), and a housing (52a, 52b, 52e, 52f, 52h) which defines a set of faces (Figures 1, 4, 6-9, 15, 19, 20, 24), having side, lower and upper faces wherein lighting element has at least one connector base (5a) disposed in an aperture (5a') in the lighting element (61a) (figure 12 unlabeled), the said connector base (5a) comprising a set of terminals (8b,) which are adapted to come into contact with a set of electrical contact zones (8b') of a complementary module (a lighting device; 62a) each electrical contact zone (8b') being disposed in such a way that it is directly accessible, for the terminal with which it is to make contact (column 4, lines 25-45), on a surface portion of an electronic printed circuit board (column 9, lines 37-47) of the complementary module (column 9, lines 38-44, conducting pattern ... printed wiring substrate). With respect to the plurality of protuberating electrical contact elements (figures 10,12-14,16,17,21,22,23).

Regarding claim 33:

Ueno et al. discloses lighting apparatus (luminaire) for a motor vehicle (column 1, lines 10-30), having in particular a light emitting element, which includes a reflector (3), a light source (1), and a housing (52a, 52b, 52e, 52f, 52h) which defines a set of faces (Figures 1, 4, 6-9, 15, 19, 20, 24), having side, lower and upper faces wherein lighting element has at least one connector base (5a) disposed in an aperture (5a') in the lighting element (61a) (figure 12 unlabeled), the said connector base (5a) comprising a set of terminals (8b,) which are adapted to come into contact with a set of electrical contact zones (8b') of a complementary module (a lighting device; 62a) each electrical contact zone (8b') being disposed in such a way that it is

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directly accessible, for the terminal with which it is to make contact (column 4, lines 25-45), on a surface portion of an electronic printed circuit board (column 9, lines 37-47) of the complementary module (column 9, lines 38-44, conducting pattern ...printed wiring substrate).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14, 23 and 25 would be allowable if a terminal disclaimer is allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 14, according to claim 8 includes that the set of contact zones and the set of terminals are associated in one-to-one relationship, the intermediate member including a first set of lugs in contact with the electrical contact zones of the first face of the electronic circuit board, and a second set of lugs in contact with the contact zones on the second face of the electronic circuit board, the two sets of lugs being joined at a common end which is sufficiently thin to be inserted and held between two terminals of the connector base. The art of record does not show and would not have suggested the limitations in claim 14.

Claims 23 and 25 depend directly or indirectly from claim 14, add further limitations and would be allowable for the same reasons.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the art rejection of claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's arguments with respect to the 112 rejection of claim 1 is persuasive and the 112 rejection is withdrawn. The objection to the drawing is also withdrawn.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James W. Cranson whose telephone number is 571-272-2368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30A.M.- 5:00P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandy O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).





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